

Namibia

MCC Learning from

“FINAL REPORT OF THE NAMIBIA LIVESTOCK SUPPORT EVALUATION”

PAUL SIJSSENS, JUNE 2017

MCC has identified the following programmatic and evaluation lessons based on the Namibia Livestock Support Final Evaluation Report.

PROGRAMMATIC LESSONS

- *Broad consultation and sustainability mechanisms need to be incorporated into project design from the beginning.* Because insufficient consultation and sustainability planning occurred early on, the Livestock Support activity experienced varying degrees of public/private sector and local community buy-in, which has implications for sustainability. MCC and MCAs need to ensure that project design incorporates extensive stakeholder consultations and post-compact sustainability plans, including written commitments from government partners, before projects begin. For interventions that are expected to benefit the private sector, MCAs and MCC might also seek private sector co-financing to increase their vested interest in sustainability.

EVALUATION LESSONS

- *MCC-funded evaluations need to follow MCC's evaluation standards.* MCC's [Evaluation Management Guidance](#) was developed after this evaluation started and could have helped to improve its overall quality and relevance. For example, it is important to understand and document the project logic prior to project approval and evaluation planning. MCC's compact development and evaluation management guidelines now ensure that all projects have a clearly defined project logic that guides project implementation and evaluation objectives. In addition, each evaluation should be designed to answer a comprehensive set of questions. Unfortunately, the methodology used here shifted the focus from the initial evaluation questions to an assessment of whether each component of the Livestock Support activity met the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) evaluation criteria. As a result, it is difficult to understand what was accomplished in terms of targeted outcomes. MCC's evaluation standards also require that a multidisciplinary Evaluation Management Committee review and clear on key evaluation products and decisions. This process is aimed at ensuring MCC-funded evaluations are worth their costs by preventing the kinds of issues encountered here or resolving them early if and when they do arise.